

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority under 35 USC 119.

DRAWINGS

Numbered paragraph 10, on page 1 of the Action, did not indicate whether the drawings were approved. Applicants therefore request that the drawings be approved since no objections thereto were set forth in the Action.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS AND REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claim 9 has been cancelled to overcome this rejection.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Baten et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,765,304 for the reasons set forth on pages 2 and 3 of the Action.

For the reasons set forth hereafter, it is submitted that claims 8, 10, and 11-12, as amended, as well as new claims 13-14 are patentable.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Claims 11 and 12 were only objected to as being dependent from rejected parent claims. Claims 11 and 12 have been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of independent claim 7 from which they depend.

PATENTABILITY OF THE CLAIMS

With respect to the rejections of claims 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Baten et al., Applicants have cancelled claim 7 and 9 and have made claims 8 and 10 dependent from claim 11, which has been rewritten in independent form and which was previously indicated to contain allowable subject matter. It is therefore believed that claims 11 and claims 8 and 10 depending therefrom, are now all patentable.

Claim 12 has also been rewritten in independent form and is therefore believed patentable. New claims 13 and 14, which depend from claim 12, correspond to claims 8 and 10. It is therefore submitted that claims 12, 13 and 14 are now all patentable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants contend that this application is in condition for

allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be due in connection with this response to Deposit Account No. 50-1417.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gene W. Stockman".

Gene W. Stockman

Registration No. 21,021

Attorney for Applicant

MATTINGLY, STANGER & MALUR
1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 370
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 684-1120
Date: November 3, 2004